

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 230-237 are pending in the application, with Claims 230, 234, and 237 being independent.

Claims 238-256 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter claimed therein. Claims 230, 231, 234, 235, and 237 have been amended. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Claims 230-253 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over JP 2-122355 (“Kiyozumi”) and U.S. Patent No. 4,902,146 (“Ishikawa”). Claims 230-237, 252, and 254-256 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 363273954 (“Yabumoto”). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 230, as amended, recites an information processing apparatus having, among other features, a switching control unit that controls switching between obtaining a device driver program provided in an external device and loading a device driver program existing in a memory area provided in the information processing apparatus, on the basis of the device type of the external device discriminated by a discrimination unit. Independent Claims 234 and 237, as amended, respectively recite a method and a computer program having features that generally correspond to the features of Claim 230.

Kiyozumi is said to teach executing a program for loading a device driver of a connected detachable external device from the external device. Ishikawa discloses selecting from among information portions in a memory card, and Yabumoto discloses specifying one of driver programs within an external memory device.

Applicant submits, however, that none of these references, whether taken alone or in the combination suggested in the Office Action, teaches or suggests at least the switching control unit/step recited in the independent claims.


Accordingly, Applicant submits that the independent claims patentably distinguish the invention over the cited art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are requested.

Further, Applicant submits that the dependent claims should be allowable for the same reasons that the base claims from which they depend are allowable, and further due to the additional features that they recite. Individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in Washington, D.C. by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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